

**In the Claims**

1. (currently amended) A guide device for assisting in the dispensing of a substance from a tube having a nozzle, the guide device comprising:

a substantially rigid protrusion radially spaced apart from the nozzle, said protrusion being located a distance ( $d_1$ ) from the nozzle and extending generally parallel with the nozzle, said protrusion having a length ( $L_1$ );

wherein said protrusion extends beyond an end portion of the nozzle.

2. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 wherein distance ( $d_1$ ) is related to length ( $L_1$ ) such that if distance ( $d_1$ ) is increased, length ( $L_1$ ) is increased; and if distance ( $d_1$ ) is decreased, length ( $L_1$ ) is decreased.

3. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 further comprising an attachment member for attaching the guide device to the nozzle.

4. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 wherein the device comprises a rigid plastic.

5. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 wherein said protrusion further comprises a base section at a first end and an end section at a second end, the base portion being rigid and the end portion being semi-rigid.

6. (original) The guide device according to claim 5 wherein said protrusion tapers from the base section toward the end section.

7. (original) The guide device according to claim 5 wherein the end section is rounded.

8. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 wherein said protrusion comprises a first protrusion, the guide device further comprising a second protrusion attached to said base portion and extending substantially parallel with said first protrusion.

9. (original) The guide device according to claim 8 wherein said second protrusion has a length ( $L_2$ ), and length ( $L_2$ ) is equal to length ( $L_1$ ).

10. (original) The guide device according to claim 1 wherein the nozzle has an opening at a distal end that comprises a slot, the guide device further comprising:

a cap having a tab for selectively interacting with the slot for sealing the nozzle;  
and

a cap holder for detachably engaging with said cap when the nozzle is being used.

11. (currently amended) A guide device for assisting in the dispensing of a substance from a tube having a nozzle, the guide device comprising:

a base portion having an opening located therein;  
an attachment member connected to said base portion for connecting said base portion to a tube; and

a substantially rigid protrusion attached to and extending from said base portion, said protrusion extending substantially parallel with the nozzle and beyond a distal end of the nozzle.

12. (original) The guide device according to claim 11 wherein the device comprises a rigid plastic.

13. (original) The guide device according to claim 11 wherein said protrusion comprises a first protrusion, the guide device further comprising a second protrusion attached to said base portion and extending substantially parallel with said first protrusion.

14. (original) The guide device according to claim 11 wherein said attachment member comprises a threaded attachment member.

15. (currently amended) A guide device for assisting in the application of a substance to be applied to a surface comprising:

- a base portion having an opening located therein;

- a plurality of spines attached to and extending from said base portion forming an attachment member, said plurality of spines spaced apart from each other and radially located around the opening, said plurality of spines forming a restriction at a distal end of the attachment member that is smaller than the opening; and

- a substantially rigid protrusion attached to and extending from said base portion, said protrusion extending substantially parallel with the plurality of spines beyond the distal end of the attachment member.

16. (currently amended) A device for assisting in the application of a substance to be applied to a surface comprising:

- a base portion having an opening located therein;

- an attachment member connected to said base portion for connecting said base portion to a corresponding attachment member on a tube;

- a nozzle integrally formed with said base portion and extending from said base portion, said nozzle forming an interior cavity and having an opening at a distal end; and

- a substantially rigid protrusion attached to and extending from said base portion, said protrusion extending substantially parallel with and beyond the distal end of said nozzle.

17. (currently amended) A method of using a guide device to assist in the application of a substance, from a tube with a nozzle, to a surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a substantially rigid protrusion having a length ( $L_1$ ) that extends substantially parallel with the nozzle and beyond an end portion of the nozzle;

locating the protrusion a distance ( $d_1$ ) radially outward from the nozzle and positioning the protrusion such that it is generally parallel with the nozzle;

engaging the protrusion with a straight edge that extends generally parallel with the surface; and

applying a bead of substance to the surface while simultaneously drawing the protrusion along the straight edge such that the bead is applied in a straight manner.